

OPINION 1843

Stictostroma Parks, 1936 (Porifera, Stromatoporoidea): conserved, and *Stictostroma gorriense* Stearn, 1995 designated as the type species

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Stromatoporoidea; Devonian; *Stictostroma*; *Stictostroma gorriense*.

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers:

- (a) it is hereby ruled that the generic name *Stictostroma* Parks, 1936 is available despite the lack of a validly fixed type species at the time of publication;
- (b) all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Stictostroma* Parks, 1936 are hereby set aside and *Stictostroma gorriense* Stearn, 1995 is designated as the type species.

(2) The name *Stictostroma* Parks, 1936 (gender: neuter), type species by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(b) above *Stictostroma gorriense* Stearn, 1995, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *gorriense* Stearn, 1995, as published in the binomen *Stictostroma gorriense* (specific name of the type species of *Stictostroma* Parks, 1936), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2901

An application for the conservation of the generic name *Stictostroma* Parks, 1936, and the designation of *Stictostroma gorriense* Stearn, 1995 as the type species, was received from Prof Colin W. Stearn (*Earth and Planetary Sciences, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada*) on 14 July 1993. After correspondence and the publication of Stearn (1995) the case was published in BZN 52: 18–20 (March 1995). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment from Dr Philippe Bouchet (*Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France*), published in BZN 52: 259 (September 1995), supported the proposal (para. 8, item (1)(b)) to designate *Stictostroma gorriense* Stearn, 1995 as the type species of *Stictostroma*, but suggested attribution of the name *Stictostroma* to Galloway & St Jean (1957) rather than to Parks (1936).

A comment in support of the application from Prof Joseph St Jean (*University of North Carolina, North Carolina, U.S.A.*), also published in BZN 52: 259, noted that Parkes (1936) had used the holotype of *S. gorriense* when proposing *Stictostroma*.

It was noted on the voting paper that a comment received from Prof C.W. Stearn, the author of the application, stated: 'I reply to Dr Bouchet's comment on the validity of the name *Stictostroma*. What I wrote in my application is supported by St Jean's comment. Although Bouchet's point is a valid one and under the Code *Stictostroma* should be attributed to Galloway & St Jean, the point of my application was not only to clear up the identity of the type species but to request the Commission to validate usage of the last 60 years, including that by Galloway & St Jean themselves, and give credit to Parks who first realized the usefulness of this taxon. The Commission will have to decide this matter and I hope will do so on the

basis that future taxonomists will be better guided through the nomenclatural complexities by recognition of Parks as the author'.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1996 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 52: 19–20. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1996 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 21: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet (part), Cocks, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahner, Martins de Souza (part), Minelli (part), Nielsen, Nye, Schuster, Starobogatov, Trjapitzin

Negative votes — 2: Savage and Štys.

No vote was received from Halvorsen.

Cogger and Ride were on leave of absence.

Bouchet, Martins de Souza and Minelli voted for the designation of *Stictostroma gorriense* Stearn, 1995 as the type species of *Stictostroma*, but against attributing the name to Parks (1936).

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Stictostroma Parks, 1936, *University of Toronto Studies, Geological Series*, 39: 77.
gorriense, *Stictostroma*, Stearn, 1995, *Journal of Paleontology*, 69: 26.